

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, GR, TU

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON FY79 ASSISTANCE TO
GREECE AND TURKEY

1. FY79 AID TO GREECE, TURKEY, AND CYPRUS WAS DISCUSSED BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GREEK-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AT
HEARINGS MARCH 13, CONDUCTED BY HIRC EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST
SUBCOMMITTEE. WITNESSES FOR GROUPS INTERESTED IN MIDDLE
EAST ALSO APPEARED.

2. REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT FROM AMERICAN HELLENIC
CONGRESS, AHEPA, AND AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE PUBLIC
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND DELIVERED LENGTHY PREPARED STATEMENTS.
COMMON THEME WAS THAT CONGRESS SHOULD OPPOSE ANY AID TO
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TURKEY UNTIL TURKEY WITHDRAWS ITS TROOPS FROM CYPRUS AND
COMPLIES WITH U.S. LAWS. TURKEY WAS CHARACTERIZED AS A
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR AS WELL AS AN "UNRELIABLE AND UNPRE-
DICTABLE" ALLY WHO HAS BEEN AIDING THE USSR AND WHO COULD
BECOME A LIABILITY TO THE U.S. IN THE EVENT OF A SOVIET
ATTACK SINCE TURKEY WOULD REQUIRE HEAVY U.S. SUPPORT IN
ORDER TO SURVIVE.

3. WITNESSES URGED CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE "THE IMPORTANCE OF GREECE TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY" AS WELL AS THE

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN GREECE AND THE U.S. AND URGED CONGRESS TO RESTORE GRANT AID AND INCREASE FMS CREDITS FOR GREECE. INCREASED AID FOR CYPRUS TO DOLS 20-25 MILLION FOR CONTINUING RELIEF ACTIVITIES WAS ALSO REQUESTED.

4. DR. VAN COUFOUDAKIS OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY CRITICIZED DEPARTMENT'S 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS WHICH HE SAID WERE NOTABLE IN THEIR "OMISSIONS AS WELL AS IN THE SELECTIVE PRESENTATION AND DISTORTION OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION." HE SINGLED OUT THE REPORTS ON CYPRUS, GREECE, AND TURKEY AS EXAMPLES OF "THE EXPEDIENT SUBORDINATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO GEOPOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS."

5. NO PUBLIC WITNESSES APPARENTLY ASKED TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF INCREASED SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. CHAIRMAN HAMILTON SAID THE U.S.-TURKEY ASSOCIATION HAD, HOWEVER, ASKED THAT FEBRUARY 18 BERNARD LEWIS ARTICLE ON TURKEY FROM "NEW REPUBLIC" BE PLACED IN THE RECORD. AT REP. FINDLEY'S REQUEST, DEPARTMENT LETTER CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE IN ISTANBUL WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE RECORD (TEXT SIMILAR TO STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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055993). VANCE

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